

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to make clearer the present invention. Claims 18 and 25 have been rewritten in an independent form and incorporate the subject matter of the original claims 15 and 16 and various original dependent claims.

Applicants have amended the claims to meet the Examiner's objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended recite metes and bounds of the invention clearly and definitely and are enabled by the specification as filed.

Claims 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Bettiol, WO 99/57155. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Bettiol appears to be irrelevant to the new claims 18-25 since Bettiol does not teach antibodies in the fusion protein. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejection over Bettiol be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgement of documents submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement submitted concurrently herewith.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rimma Mitelman", written in dark ink.

Rimma Mitelman  
Registration No. 34,396  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

RM/sa  
(201) 840-2671